

(Key Kashmiri Separatist Group. . .—Continued from previous page)

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"You Can't Fire Me; I Quit"

The recent split was heralded when Pakistan-based JKLF Chairman Amanullah Khan announced to the press that he had sacked Malik from his position as president in favor of former JKLF publicity officer and hardliner, Shabir Siddiqui. Khan accused Malik of "ruining" the JKLF, endangering his comrades with reckless policies and failing to follow instructions from the group's central command in Pakistan. Khan's protegee Siddiqui added to the public diatribe against his former colleague, complaining that Malik had been paid by Indian authorities for his efforts to end peacefully the 1993 siege of the Hazratbal mosque. Malik retorted with a news conference of his own, during which his spokesman announced that the "real" JKLF was moving its headquarters from Rawalpindi, Pakistan to Srinagar in Kashmir, where Malik would take over as Chairman and Khan and Siddiqui were no longer welcome in his organization.

Will the Real JKLF Please Stand Up

Malik enjoys greater popularity than either Siddiqui or Amanullah Khan, but it remains uncertain whether Malik's faction will prevail. Malik's supporters comprise both pacifists and militants, and the uneasy alliance is likely to fray before long.

Afghan-Pakistan Relations Spiraling Downward

The Rabbani regime's distrust of Pakistan is deepening following Taliban's new offensive on Kabul and takeover of Herat in early September. Afghan officials, [redacted] have resurrected claims that Pakistan is running and directing the Taliban movement. President Rabbani has referred to the student group as the "ISID-backed" Taliban and is accusing Pakistan of meddling in internal Afghan affairs, according to press.

- A government spokesman declared that "there is a clear Pakistani involvement in the attack" against Kabul last week, according to press.

- The Afghan representative to the United Nations submitted a letter last month to Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asking that the UN send a special inquiry delegation to Herat to investigate the "hundreds of Pakistani military personnel seen in Herat."

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(Afghan-Pakistani Relations. . .—Continued from previous page)

Kabul anger reached new highs last month when unruly Afghans destroyed the Pakistani Embassy, killed a Pakistani official, and seriously wounded the Ambassador. The attack came in spite of an official Pakistani request for increased security in the wake of the fall of Herat. At a minimum, the Afghan government shared responsibility in the incident by not preventing the attack. Afghan officials refused to apologize and claimed that the crowd attacked the compound in response to a shot being fired from inside the Pakistani Embassy.

- A reporter on the scene noted that government security forces manning a checkpoint on the road made no effort to intervene to stop the demonstrators as they stormed the Embassy gates.

Kabul has been complaining for months about Pakistani efforts to forge a predominantly Pashtun opposition alliance to further its own interests against Rabbani's Tajik-led regime. For example, the government protested vehemently when Pakistan hosted the visit of the ex-King Zahir Shah's son-in-law, whom many believe was testing the waters for a return of the King this summer. Kabul also has been alarmed by Pakistani actions it believes are aimed at securing a stable trading route through western Afghanistan to Central Asia.

- [redacted] recently told U.S. officials that negotiations with Taliban to open up the trans-Afghanistan Chaman-Torghundi road to Central Asia—[redacted] been allocated money for badly-needed repairs—[redacted] were nearing conclusion.

- Pakistani technicians set up telephone cables to the Taliban-captured provinces immediately after Rabbani ally Ismael Khan's retreat from Herat. Press reports indicated that Pakistan and Afghanistan would soon be linked through these telecommunication facilities. [redacted]

Pakistan's diplomatic retaliation for the destruction of its Embassy has only strengthened Rabbani's perception that Islamabad is undermining his authority.

- Pakistan has expelled Rabbani's Special Envoy in Islamabad from the country on 9 October in addition to declaring 13 Afghan diplomats persona non grata on 21 September. A Foreign Ministry announcement cited the Kabul government's refusal to apologize for the attack on its Kabul Embassy and President Rabbani's allegations as grounds for the dismissals, according to the Embassy.
- Pakistan's representative to the United Nations told the General Assembly this month that it could no longer recognize the Kabul regime as the legitimate Afghan government because Rabbani controls only five of 32 provinces and his administration is narrowly Tajik-based, according to press. [redacted]

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